

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**IN RE: NEW ENGLAND)
COMPOUNDING PHARMACY, INC.)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION)**

MDL No. 1:13-md-2419-FDS

This Document Relates to:)

F. Dennis Saylor, IV, presiding

**Bequette et al v. Ameridose, LLC et al.,)
1:13-cv-12429-FDS)**

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF
OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

The State of Tennessee, by and through the Attorney General and Reporter, submits the following Memorandum of Law in Support of its Motion to Dismiss.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiffs have filed a personal injury claim regarding the fungal meningitis outbreak. In pursuing this claim, they request a declaratory judgment that Tennessee's statutory caps on damages, found under Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-39-102 and § 29-39-104, are unconstitutional. (Doc. 1, Complaint, ¶¶ 280-284). A copy of the complaint was sent to the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.1(a)(2).

This claim was initially filed in the Middle District of Tennessee, Case No. 3:13-cv-00903. It was transferred to this Court for coordination or consolidation of pretrial proceedings as part of the *New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. Products Liability Litigation*. (Doc. 24, Order Transferring Case).

ARGUMENT

The State of Tennessee should be permitted to intervene in this lawsuit to defend the constitutionality of Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-39-102 and § 29-39-104. Rule 5.1 governs the procedure for challenging the constitutionality of a statute. It requires that notice be given to the state's Attorney General if a state statute is challenged. Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.1(a)(2). Upon receiving notice, the Attorney General may intervene within 60 days of the notice, "[u]nless the court sets a later time."¹ Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.1(c). Rule 5.1(c) is consistent with Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-107(b), which provides that the State of Tennessee is entitled to be heard whenever a statute of statewide effect is alleged to be unconstitutional.

In this case, Plaintiffs have challenged the constitutionality of Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-39-102 and § 29-39-104. (Doc. 1, Complaint, ¶ 280-284). Plaintiffs notified Tennessee's Attorney General, Robert E. Cooper, Jr., as required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.1(a)(2). The State of Tennessee now moves to intervene to defend the constitutionality of the state statutes.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reason, the State of Tennessee's motion to intervene should be granted.

¹ Rule 5.1(c) states, "Unless the court sets a later time, the attorney general may intervene within 60 days after the notice is filed or after the court certifies the challenge, whichever is earlier." Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.1(c)

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this 7th day of October, 2013, a copy of the foregoing was filed electronically. Notice of this filing will be sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. This document was originally filed on October 2, 2013 in case number 1:13-cv-12429-FDS. It is now being filed in the lead case, No. 1:13-md-2419, in compliance with MDL Order No. 1 from February 15, 2013.

s/Joseph Ahillen
JOSEPH AHILLEN